In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-31 as shown below.

1. (currently amended) A communications ~~apparatus~~ cable, comprising:

a tube longitudinally surrounding a hollow core and having a user accessible area; and

a first group and a second group of conductors disposed in the hollow core,

wherein the first group of conductors comprises:

a first conductor, circumscribed by a first shade of a first color selectively applied to the first conductor at the user accessible area; and

a second conductor, circumscribed by a second shade of the first color selectively applied to the second conductor at the user accessible area,

wherein the second group of conductors comprises:

a third conductor, circumscribed by a first shade of a second color selectively applied to the third conductor at the user accessible area; and

a fourth conductor, circumscribed by a second shade of the second color selectively applied to the fourth conductor at the user accessible area

~~at least two conductors or fibers, wherein a first conductor or fiber comprises a first color and a second conductor or fiber comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color~~.

2. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ communications cable of claim 1, wherein the first and second conductors ~~or fibers~~ are a twisted pair ~~in the communications apparatus~~.

3. (currently amended) The communications cable ~~apparatus~~ of claim 2, wherein the first and second shade of the first color[[s]] are operable ~~used~~ to identify the first and second conductor ~~or fiber~~ if they become untwisted.

4. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ communications cable of claim 1,

wherein the first group of conductors further comprises a fifth conductor, circumscribed by a third shade of the first color selectively applied at the user accessible area, and

wherein the second group of conductors further comprises a sixth conductor, circumscribed by a third shade of the second color selectively applied at the user accessible area ~~difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye~~.

5. (currently amended) The communications cable ~~apparatus~~ of claim 1, wherein an inner and an outer layer of insulation circumscribes the first conductor and where first shade is selectively incorporated into the outer layer ~~the first and second conductors or fibers are insulated~~.

6. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ communications cable of claim 1 [[5]], wherein the first shade of the color is located in ~~the~~ insulation of ~~for~~ the first conductor ~~or fiber, the second color is located in the insulation for the second conductor or fiber, or the first color is located in the insulation for the first conductor or fiber and the second color is located in the insulation for the second conductor or fiber~~.

7. (currently amended) The communications cable ~~apparatus~~ of claim 1,

wherein a first numerical value specifies a level of the first color in the first shade of the first color, and

wherein a second numerical value specifies another level of the first color in the second shade of the first color ~~2, further including a second pair of conductors or fibers with one conductor or fiber comprising a third color and a second conductor or fiber comprising a fourth color having a lighter tint of the third color~~.

8. (currently amended) The communications cable ~~apparatus~~ of claim 7 [[5]], wherein the first numerical value and the second numerical value are classifications on a numerical color scale,

wherein the first shade of the first color and the second shade of the first color are only different enough to support visual color differentiation by a human installer of the communications cable, and

wherein the communications cable further comprises a binder and a ripcord ~~entire length of insulation for the first conductor or fiber contains the first color~~.

9. (currently amended) The communications cable ~~apparatus~~ of claim 1 [[5]], wherein:

the first conductor is a first optical fiber with the first shade of the first color applied directly thereon;

the second conductor is a second optical fiber with the second shade of the first color applied directly thereon;

the third conductor is a third optical fiber with the first shade of the second color applied directly thereon; and

the fourth conductor is a fourth optical fiber with the second shade of the second color applied directly thereon ~~the entire length of insulation for the second conductor or fiber contains the second color.~~

10. (currently amended) A communications cable, comprising:

a jacket defining a core and providing a location for user access; and

at least two conductors within the core,

wherein exclusively at the location, a first conductor is circumscribed by ~~comprises~~ a first tint of a ~~first~~ color directly adhering to the first conductor and a second conductor is circumscribed by ~~comprises~~ a second ~~color having a lighter~~ tint of the ~~first~~ color.

11. (original) The cable of claim 10, wherein the first and second conductors are a twisted pair in the cable.

12. (currently amended) The cable of claim 10, wherein the difference between the first and second tints of the color[[s]] can be distinguished by the naked eye.

13. (currently amended) The cable of claim 10, wherein the first tint of the color is located in an insulation for the first conductor, and wherein the second tint of the color is located in an insulation for the second conductor~~, or the first color is located in an insulation for the first conductor and the second color is located in an insulation for the second conductor~~.

14. (currently amended) The cable of claim 13, wherein the insulation for the first conductor comprises an inner layer and an outer layer exclusively comprising the first tint of the color entire length of insulation for the first conductor contains the first color.

15. (currently amended) The cable of claim 10 [[3]], wherein the first conductor comprises a first optical fiber, the second conductor comprises a second optical fiber, the first tint of the color is applied directly to a surface of the first optical fiber, and the second tint of the color is applied directly to a surface of the second optical fiber

~~entire length of insulation for the second conductor contains the second color~~.

16. (currently amended) A cable, comprising:

a jacket defining a core; and

~~plurality of~~ a first group and a second group of UV-coated optical fibers disposed ~~insulated conductors~~ within the core, wherein the respective UV coating of each optical fiber of the first group comprises a visibly distinct tint of a first color and wherein the respective UV coating of each optical fiber of the second group comprises a visibly distinct tint of a second color ~~the insulation of the first conductor comprises a first color and the insulation of second conductor comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color~~.

17. (currently amended) The cable of claim 16, wherein the first and second ~~conductors are~~ groups each comprises a twisted pair in the cable.

18. (original) The cable of claim 16, wherein the difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

19. (currently amended) A communications system, comprising:

a first and second group of cables, wherein each group of cables contains at least two ~~conductors or~~ optical fibers and wherein a first ~~conductor or~~ optical fiber in the first group comprises a UV coating having a first tint of a color and a second ~~conductor or~~ optical fiber in the first group comprises a UV coating having a second ~~color having a lighter~~ tint of the ~~first~~ color.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

20. (currently amended) A communications system comprising:

a cable ~~having at least two conductors or~~ comprising a first and a second optical fiber[[s]], wherein [[a]] the first ~~conductor or~~ optical fiber has ~~comprises~~ a first color of ink applied directly thereto, and [[a]] wherein the second ~~conductor or~~ optical fiber ~~comprises~~ has a second color of ink, ~~having~~ providing a lighter tint of the first color, applied directly thereto ~~; and~~

~~a connector having at least two terminals, wherein a first terminal is identified by the first color and the second terminal is identified by the second color~~.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

21. (withdrawn) A method of making a communications apparatus, comprising:

providing a first conductor or fiber and second conductor or fiber; and

providing the first conductor or fiber with a first color and a second conductor or fiber with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, including providing the first and second conductors or fibers with a first insulation and a second insulation, respectively.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the material for the first and second insulation is a polymeric resin mixture and the first and second insulation is provided on the first and second conductors or fibers by an extrusion process.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23, including providing the first insulation with the first color and the second insulation with a second color.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 24, including providing the first insulation with the first color by mixing the material for the insulation with a dye or pigment and including providing the second insulation with the second color by mixing the material for the insulation with a dye or pigment.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second conductors or fibers are a twisted pair in the cable.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye.

28. (currently amended) A method of making a cable, comprising:

providing a first insulated conductor and second insulated conductor;

identifying a location along the first insulated conductor and the second insulated conductor for user access;

at the identified location, selectively providing the first insulated conductor with a first color and a second insulated conductor with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and

providing a jacket over the first and second conductor.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, including providing the insulation for the first conductor with the first color and the insulation for the second conductor with [[a]] the second color.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

30. (currently amended) A method for making a cable system, comprising:

providing a first group of cables and second group of cables, wherein each group of cables contains a plurality of cables;

providing, at a selected longitudinal location, a first cable in the first group with a first color and a second cable in the first group with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and

providing a jacket over the first and second group of cables.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

31. (currently amended) A method ~~of~~ for identifying conductors within a cable, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an access location along the cable;

providing the cable with a first optical ~~conductor or~~ fiber ~~with a first color~~ and a second ~~conductor or~~ optical fiber ~~with a lighter tint of the first color~~; and

at the access location, selectively covering the first optical fiber with a first color and the second optical fiber with a lighter tint of the first color.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]